

## **Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**

### **Location and Land status:**

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians was federally recognized on October 10, 1980. They are located in the towns of Littleton and Houlton, Aroostook County, ME. The total Tribal roll consists of 741 members. Currently approximately 854 acres are held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians..

### **Tribal Government:**

The Tribe has a council composed of six members, headed by a Chief. The tribal administrator oversees the daily business of the administration.

### **Economy:**

Agricultural lease payments are a source of revenue for the Tribe. Their land is fertile; potatoes are the primary crop in rotation with barley and clover.

### **HBM/EPA Partnership - Milestones:**

A multi-media grant received in 1992 marks the beginning of the Tribal/EPA partnership for developing a tribal environmental department. The Tribe received their first performance partnership grant in 1996, which is the mechanism the Tribe uses to manage the various environmental projects funded by EPA. The Tribal/EPA agreement (TEA) signed in 1997 identifies the goals of the tribal environmental department and EPA's commitment to work on a government to government basis with the Tribe to fulfill these goals. The Tribe has been approved by EPA to receive Treatment in a manner similar to a State (TAS) funding in the following areas: the Clean Water Act 106 (1997) and the Clean Water Act 319 (2000).

### **Environmental Accomplishments - last 10 years**

The Tribe has had many great environmental accomplishments over the last 10 years in the areas of non-point source management, water quality, environmental health/solid waste, emergency planning and pollution prevention..

**Non-point source management accomplishments include:** 7 acres of riparian buffer by planting tree seedlings -- 16 acres of tree planting on highly erodible land -- 3 waterways, 7 sediment basins/level lip spreaders, 1 plunge pool, 1 nutrient and sediment control structure -- 23.7 acres of environmentally sensitive agricultural land enrolled in USDA's Conservation Reserve Program -- 1 "beaver deceiver" exclusion device installed to protect road erosion -- 3 unstable banks re-graded and seeded or cobbled -- an unstable section of road re-graded and armored -- a third culvert on Bell road designed to direct runoff into a stream buffer rather than directly into the stream -- well-sized and shaped road ditching along Bell Road -- a large concrete culvert to handle spring runoff and facilitate beaver exclusion at the crossing of Suter Brook and Bell Road -- cobble on the stream bank adjacent to the large concrete culvert -- a beaver exclusion device to keep sections of a gravel road from washing into a wetland -- 1 acre erosion control plant materials Center established -- summer of 2002 installing another non-point source BMP.

**Water quality accomplishments include:** monitoring the Meduxnekeag watershed at 23 locations for pH, temperature, DO, alkalinity, conductivity, total suspended solids, turbidity, and e-coli bacteria. Also assessing algae growth and macro invertebrate community -- Providing Maine DEP all water quality data, State currently relies on us for their temperature/DO data collection. -- Coordinating water quality monitoring with local waste water treatment plant effort. -- beginning a watershed-wide non-point source assessment.

**Environmental Health/Solid Waste accomplishments include:** 42 homes tested for radon -- 50 children tested for blood lead contamination -- 3 household hazardous waste workshops provided -- 1 composting and recycling workshop provided -- Fish in the Meduxnekeag watershed tested for a variety of toxic contaminants -- In summer of 2002 a Women's and Heads of Household Environmental Health Workshop planned.

**Future Environmental Plans:**

HBMI's environmental education activities currently underway include constructing an interpretive nature trail highlighting Tribe's non-point source management activities and developing a Natural Resources Department web page. The Band is developing wildlife habitat enhancement plans for tribal trust lands including the long-term objective of establishing Bald Eagle nesting platforms. HBMI would also like to restore a natural sea-run Atlantic Salmon population in the Meduxnekeag. To support these wildlife restoration goals, the Tribe would like to expand their water quality and air deposition monitoring capabilities to better identify sources of non-point source pollution in the Meduxnekeag River (if funding is available) currently degrading habitat for Salmon and Eagles.